

CLAIMS

- 5           1. Method for creating a map of available physical resources on the interface level within an IP network, by performing the steps of:  
            -*combining* (303) a topology map of said IP network with resource information that comprises information about identities of logical addresses and quantity of logical addresses, the method is **characterised** in the further step of:  
10           -*performing* (304) a mapping between said logical addresses and a physical interface within said IP network.
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the topology map is obtained by a topology aware resource manager.
- 15           3. Method according to any of claims 1-2, wherein the mapping is performed by collecting information from network elements, e.g. routers by using SNMP.
- 20           4. Method according to any of claims 1-3, wherein said mapping is performed by a resource manager.
5. Method according to claim 4, wherein said resource manager is implemented within a router or a server.
- 25           6. Method according to any of claims 1-5, wherein said logical address is an IP address.
- 30           7. A computer program product directly loadable into a server and/or a router within an IP network comprising the software code portions for performing the steps of any of claims 1-6.
- 35           8. A computer program product stored on a computer usable medium, comprising readable program for causing a processing means within a server and/or a router within an IP network to control the execution of the steps of any of claims 1-6.

- 5 9. Resource manager for creating a map of available physical resources on the interface level within an IP network, comprising means (502) for combining a topology map of said IP network with resource information that comprises information about identities of logical addresses and quantity of logical addresses, the resource manager is **characterised** in that it further comprises means (504) for performing a mapping between said logical addresses and a physical interface within said IP network.
- 10 10. Resource manager according to claim 9, wherein it further comprises means for creating a topology map.
- 15 11. Resource manager according to any of claims 9-10, wherein the resource manager further comprises means for obtaining the physical resource information by collecting information from network elements, e.g. routers by using SNMP.
- 20 12. Resource manager according to any of claims 9-11, wherein said resource manager is implemented within a router or a server.
13. Resource manager according to any of claims 9-12, wherein said logical address is an IP address.